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10/811,119	03/26/2004	James W. Owens	200310583-1	9201

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EXAMINER	
UNELUS, ERNEST	
ART UNIT	**PAPER NUMBER**
2181	

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
3 MONTHS	02/01/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/811,119	OWENS ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Ernest Unelus	2181	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *01/10/07*.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-47* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) *4 and 34-37* is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☐ Claim(s) *1-3,5-31,33 and 38-47* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☒ The drawing(s) filed on *26 March 2004* is/are: a)☒ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

The instant application having Application No. 10/811,119 has a total of 38 preliminary amended claims pending in the application; there are 5 independent claims and 33 dependent claims, all of which are ready for examination by the examiner.

I. INFORMATION CONCERNING OATH/DECLARATION

Oath/Declaration

1. The applicant's oath/declaration has been reviewed by the examiner and is found to conform to the requirements prescribed in **37 C.F.R. 1.63.**

II. INFORMATION CONCERNING DRAWINGS

Drawings

2. The applicant's drawings submitted are acceptable for examination purposes.

III. REJECTIONS BASED ON PRIOR ART

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. **Claims 1-3, 5-8, 18-31, 33, 43, and 45-46,** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bastiani et al. (US pat. 6,442,628) in view by Konishi et al. (US pub. 2002/0003576).

5. As per **claims 1 and 18**, Bastiani discloses "A method for dynamically processing data **(see abs., which discloses "A method and system are provided for determining maximum data throughput between a host adapter and one or more target devices coupled to the host adapter through a bus")**, the method comprising the steps of: determining a sustainable data transfer rate between a data appliance **(SCSI host adapter 304 of fig. 3)** and an external memory medium **(Read/write buffer 324 of fig. 3)** that is directly connectable to the data appliance **(see bus 308 of fig. 3, which directly connect the SCSI host adapter and the Read/write buffer)** by transferring a test file between the data appliance and the external memory medium **(see col. 3, line 57 to col. 4, line 5, which discloses a 'test data pattern', a test file, to determined the data transfer rate between the SCSI host adapter and the external memory')**; selecting a value **(the negotiated maximum value)** for at least one operational parameter **(data speed, as disclose in col. 5, line 51, is one operational parameter)** within the data appliance in response to the sustainable data transfer rate **(col. 5, lines 36-40 discloses "The initiator and the target SCSI device then negotiate for a maximum data throughput (e.g., data transfer speed) between them in operation 208. The initiator and the target SCSI device then communicate at the negotiated maximum throughput")**; and processing data in accordance with the at least one operational parameter **(col. 5, lines 38-40 discloses "The initiator and the target SCSI device then communicate at the negotiated maximum throughput")**.

Bastiani fail to disclose expressly a file containing a digital representation of video data.

Konishi discloses a file, the index file, containing a digital representation of video data. **(see paragraph 0127, which also discloses "The index image is generated from one frame of a motion video signal recorded as the encoded motion video file (ASF")).**

Bastiani et al. (US pat. 6,442,628) and Konishi et al. (US pub. 2002/0003576) are analogous art because they are from the same field of endeavor of determining data transfer rate.

At the time of the invention it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to modify a system for determining maximum data transfer speed over a bus coupled between target devices, wherein a users are thus relieved from the tedious task of manually setting parameters and rebooting until the computer system boots up properly, which also means that the host adapter and target devices are ensured of operating reliably at the highest data transfer speed possible, as described by Bastiani and a video camera apparatus comprising a solid state image sensor, a motion video encoding section which performs compression encoding including intra-frame encoding and inter-frame encoding for a motion video signal input from the solid state image sensor, a recording section which records the motion video signal compression-encoded by the motion video encoding section as a motion video file on a recording medium, and a control section which has a first motion video shooting and recording mode for obtaining a motion video file capable of transmitting the compression-encoded motion video signal in real time to a partner destination via a network, and controls the motion video encoding section so as to match a bit rate of an encoded signal obtained by the motion video encoding section with a communication speed of the network used to transmit the motion video file when the first motion video shooting and recording mode is selected as taught by Konishi.

The motivation for doing so would have been because Konishi teaches that his system allow someone to transfer data using high bit rate while attaining high quality of data **(see paragraph 0069)**.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Konishi et al. (US pub. 2002/0003576) with Bastiani et al. (US pat. 6,442,628) for the benefit of creating a method for dynamically processing data to obtain the invention as specified in claim 1.

6. As per **claim 2**, the combination of Bastiani and Konishi discloses "The method of claim 1," **[See rejection to claim 1 above]** Bastiani further discloses "wherein transferring a test file between the data appliance and the external memory medium comprises reading or writhing the test file at an initial bit rate that matches a maximum rate supported by the data appliance" **(see col. 3, line 64 to col. 24, line 2, which discloses "A write and read test is then performed at the maximum data throughput rate over the bus. Specifically, the write and read test transfers a test data pattern between the host adapter and the selected target device where the test data pattern is configured for testing signal transmission characteristics of the bus at the maximum data throughput")**.

7. As per **claims 3 and 19**, the combination of Bastiani and Konishi discloses "The method of claim 1," **[See rejection to claim 1 above]** Bastiani further discloses "wherein selecting a value **(the negotiated maximum value)** for at least one operational parameter comprises identifying a data acquisition parameter" **(see col. 5, lines 36-54)**.

8. As per **claims 5, 20, and 29**, the combination of Bastiani and Konishi discloses "The method of claim 3," **[See rejection to claim 3 above]** Konishi further discloses "wherein identifying a data acquisition parameter comprises changing at least one of a value associated with spatial resolution and frame rate"**(paragraph 0017 discloses changing the frame rate).**

9. As per **claims 6, 22, and 28**, the combination of Bastiani and Konishi discloses "The method of claim 1," **[See rejection to claim 1 above]** Konishi further discloses "wherein selecting a value for at least one operational parameter comprises identifying a data compression parameter" **(the data being compressed is discloses in fig. 1)**.

10. As per **claims 7, 23, and 30**, the combination of Bastiani and Konishi discloses "The method of claim 6," **[See rejection to claim 6 above]** Konishi further discloses "wherein identifying a data compression parameter comprises changing at least one of an indicator associated with a bit rate, a frame type, and a search area for motion vectors" **(see paragraph 0061)**.

11. As per **claim 8**, the combination of Bastiani and Konishi discloses "The method of claim 1," **[See rejection to claim 1 above]** Konishi further discloses "wherein selecting a value for at least one operational parameter in response to the sustainable data transfer rate comprises determining a desired data transfer rate responsive to the sustainable data transfer rate" **(see paragraph 0144)**.

12. As per **claim 21**, the combination of Bastiani and Konishi discloses "The method of claim 1," **[See rejection to claim 1 above]** Konishi further discloses "wherein the means for transforming the data stream is responsive to at least one processing parameter **(see Processor of fig. 1 and paragraph 0061)**.

13. As per **claim 24,** Bastiani discloses "A computer-readable medium **(host computer 302 of fig. 3)** of a data appliance **(SCSI host adapter 304 of fig. 3)** having stored thereon **(ROM 318 of fig. 3)** an executable instruction set, the instruction set, when executed by a processor **(host processor, as disclose in col. 6, lines 37-38)**, directing the processor to perform a method comprising: retrieving a test file **(see col. 3, line 57 to col. 4, line 5, which discloses a 'test data pattern', a test file, to determined the data transfer rate between the SCSI host adapter and the external memory')** and an initial bit rate **(see col. 3, lines 46-48)**; transferring the test file to an external memory medium **(Read/write buffer 324 of fig. 3)** that is directly connectable to the data appliance **(see bus 308 of fig. 3, which directly connect the SCSI host adapter and the Read/write buffer)**; determining if a data transfer error condition exists **(as discloses in col. 5, lines 62-63 "the host adapter and the target device may not be able to operate at the full maximum speed due to physical variations in the SCSI bus such as a narrow segment or single-ended segment in the middle of the SCSI bus")**; when it is the case that no data transfer error exists, recording the bit rate to generate a sustainable data transfer rate **(see col. 5, lines 42-61)**; when it is the case that a data transfer error exists, decreasing the bit rate to generate an interim bit rate less than an initial bit rate by a predetermined amount for a remainder of data transfer and/or Subsequent data transfers and repeating the transferring, determining, decreasing,

and recording steps until another data transfer error condition occurs or the data transfer is completed so that data transfers and bit rate adjustments repeat until no data error is detected during a transfer of the test file **(see col. 7, lines 29-45, which discloses lowing the data throughput rate until a negotiated value is establish)**.

Bastiani fail to disclose expressly a file containing a digital representation of video data.

Konishi discloses a file, the index file, containing a digital representation of video data. **(see paragraph 0127, which also discloses "The index image is generated from one frame of a motion video signal recorded as the encoded motion video file (ASF)").**

Bastiani et al. (US pat. 6,442,628) and Konishi et al. (US pub. 2002/0003576) are analogous art because they are from the same field of endeavor of determining data transfer rate.

At the time of the invention it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to modify a system for determining maximum data transfer speed over a bus coupled between target devices, wherein a users are thus relieved from the tedious task of manually setting parameters and rebooting until the computer system boots up properly, which also means that the host adapter and target devices are ensured of operating reliably at the highest data transfer speed possible, as described by Bastiani and a video camera apparatus comprising a solid state image sensor, a motion video encoding section which performs compression encoding including intra-frame encoding and inter-frame encoding for a motion video signal input from the solid state image sensor, a recording section which records the motion video signal compression-encoded by the motion video encoding section as a motion video file on a recording medium, and a control section which has a first motion video shooting and recording mode for obtaining a motion video file capable of transmitting the compression-encoded motion video

signal in real time to a partner destination via a network, and controls the motion video encoding section so as to match a bit rate of an encoded signal obtained by the motion video encoding section with a communication speed of the network used to transmit the motion video file when the first motion video shooting and recording mode is selected as taught by Konishi.

The motivation for doing so would have been because Konishi teaches that his system allow someone to transfer data using high bit rate while attaining high quality of data **(see paragraph 0069)**.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Konishi et al. (US pub. 2002/0003576) with Bastiani et al. (US pat. 6,442,628) for the benefit of creating the computer readable medium to obtain the invention as specified in claim 24.

14. As per **claim 25**, the combination of Bastiani and Konishi discloses "The computer-readable medium of claim 24," **[See rejection to claim 24 above]** Konishi further discloses "wherein retrieving a test file and a bit rate comprises retrieving video data" **(see paragraph 0127, which also discloses "The index image is generated from one frame of a motion video signal recorded as the encoded motion video file (ASF")).**

15. As per **claims 26 and 33**, the combination of Bastiani and Konishi discloses "The computer-readable medium of claim 24," **[See rejection to claim 24 above]** Konishi further discloses "wherein the data transfer error comprises a write/read operation error **(see paragraph 0137)**.

16. As per **claim 27**, the combination of Bastiani and Konishi discloses "The computer-readable medium of claim 24," **[See rejection to claim 24 above]** Konishi further discloses " comprising: selecting at least one operational parameter **(video or internet mode)** in response to the sustainable data rate **("NORMAL", the target bit rate) (see fig. 4)**; and applying the operational parameter **(see paragraph 0144)**.

17. As per **claim 31**, the combination of Bastiani and Konishi discloses "The computer-readable medium of claim 24," **[See rejection to claim 24 above]** Bastiani further discloses "comprising: retrieving the test file from the external memory medium responsive to the initial bit rate" **(see col. 6, lines 51-62)**

18. As per **claims 43 and 45,** the combination of Konishi and Bastiani discloses "The method of claim 1," **[See rejection to claim 1 above]** Konishi further discloses "wherein the external memory medium is a removable flash memory card **(paragraph 0136 discloses "and the file system of the personal computer 13 treats the built-in flash memory 121 as an external hard disk device").**

19. As per **claim 46,** the combination of Konishi and Bastiani discloses "The system of claim 46," **[See rejection to claim 46 above]** Konishi further discloses "wherein the external memory medium is a removable flash memory card **(paragraph 0136 discloses "and the file system of the personal computer 13 treats the built-in flash memory 121 as an external hard disk device". See fig. 1).**

20. **Claims 9-17, 38-42, 44, and 47,** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over by Konishi et al. (US pub. 2002/0003576) in view of Bastiani et al. (US pat. 6,442,628).

21. As per **claim 9,** Konishi discloses "A data appliance **(camera 11 of fig. 1)**, comprising: an acquisition system **(compression/decompression section 115 of fig. 1)** configured to acquire data in response to an acquisition parameter **(frame rate, as discloses in paragraph 0085)**; a processing system **(video signal processor 113 of fig. 1)** coupled to the acquisition system **(see fig. 1)**, the processing system configured to transform data in response to a processing parameter **(see paragraph 0059)**; and a memory interface **(frame memory 701 of fig. 23)** coupled to the processing system **(this frame is coupled to the control section which is coupled to the processor)**, wherein the data appliance configured to select a value **(a designated bit rate, as discloses in paragraph 0085)** associated with at least one of the acquisition parameter and the processing parameter responsive to a sustainable data transfer rate between the memory interface and an external memory medium **(PCMICA card 122 of fig. 1)** that is directly connectable to the data appliance **(Paragraph 0060, lines 6-8 discloses "The PCMCIA card type hard disk drive 122 is larger in capacity than the built-in flash memory 121, and is detachably mounted on the video camera apparatus 11". Paragraph 0144 discloses "The default motion video shooting and recording mode is set to a mode at a lower bit rate than in the use of the PCMCIA card type hard disk drive 122 as a recording medium, e.g., NORMAL as a predetermined resolution in the VIDEO mode, or to the INTERNET mode (step S155).**

The target bit rate can be optimized by automatically setting the default value of the target bit rate in video shooting/recording in accordance with the type of recording medium used"). Konishi also discloses transferring a test file **(the index file)** containing a digital representation of video data between the data appliance and the external memory medium **(see paragraph 0127, which also discloses "The index image is generated from one frame of a motion video signal recorded as the encoded motion video file (ASF)").**

Konishi fail to expressly discloses determining a sustainable data transfer rate between a data appliance and an external memory medium that is directly connectable to the data appliance by transferrinq a test file.

Bastiani discloses determining a sustainable data transfer rate between a data appliance and an external memory medium that is directly connectable to the data appliance by transferring a test file" **(see col. 3, line 57 to col. 4, line 5, which discloses a 'test data pattern', a test file, to determined the data transfer rate between the SCSI host adapter and the external memory').**

Konishi et al. (US pub. 2002/0003576) and Bastiani et al. (US pat. 6,442,628) are analogous art because they are from the same field of endeavor of determining data transfer rate.

At the time of the invention it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to modify a system for determining maximum data transfer speed over a bus coupled between target devices, wherein a users are thus relieved from the tedious task of manually setting parameters and rebooting until the computer system boots up properly, which also means that the host adapter and target devices are ensured of operating reliably at the highest data transfer speed possible, as described by Bastiani and a video camera apparatus comprising a

solid state image sensor, a motion video encoding section which performs compression encoding including intra-frame encoding and inter-frame encoding for a motion video signal input from the solid state image sensor, a recording section which records the motion video signal compression-encoded by the motion video encoding section as a motion video file on a recording medium, and a control section which has a first motion video shooting and recording mode for obtaining a motion video file capable of transmitting the compression-encoded motion video signal in real time to a partner destination via a network, and controls the motion video encoding section so as to match a bit rate of an encoded signal obtained by the motion video encoding section with a communication speed of the network used to transmit the motion video file when the first motion video shooting and recording mode is selected as taught by Konishi.

The motivation for doing so would have been because Bastiani teaches "**By thus automatically determining and setting the maximum data throughput rate, the users are relieved from the tedious task of manually setting parameters and rebooting until the computer system boots up properly. At the same time, the host adapter and target devices are ensured of operating reliably at the highest data transfer speed possible" (see col. 6, lines 4-10).**

Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Konishi et al. (US pub. 2002/0003576) with Bastiani et al. (US pat. 6,442,628) for the benefit of creating a method for dynamically processing data to obtain the invention as specified in claim 9.

22. As per **claim 10**, the combination of Konishi and Bastiani discloses "The appliance of claim 9," **[See rejection to claim 9 above]** Konishi further discloses "comprising: an internal

memory configured to store the test file" **(see fig. 13 and paragraph 0071, which also discloses the recording medium as the built-in flash memory 121).**

23. As per **claim 11**, the combination of Konishi and Bastiani discloses "The appliance of claim 10," **[See rejection to claim 10 above]** Bastiani further discloses "if a data transfer error **(as discloses in col. 5, lines 62-63 "the host adapter and the target device may not be able to operate at the full maximum speed due to physical variations in the SCSI bus such as a narrow segment or single-ended segment in the middle of the SCSI bus")** is detected after transferring the test file, an interim bit rate less than an initial bit rate by a predetermined amount is used for a remainder of data transfer and/or subsequent data transfers and wherein after the bit rate has been decreased, the data transfer resumes until another data transfer error condition occurs or the data transfer is completed so that data transfers and bit rate adjustments repeat until no data error is detected during a transfer of the test file" **(see col. 5, lines 30-65).**

24. As per **claims 12, 13 and 42,** the combination of Konishi and Bastiani discloses "The appliance of claim 9," **[See rejection to claim 9 above]** Konishi further discloses "wherein the sustainable data transfer rate is associated with a data write/read operation **(paragraphs 0136 discloses read/write operation)**.

25. As per **claim 14,** the combination of Konishi and Bastiani discloses "The appliance of claim 9," **[See rejection to claim 9 above]** Konishi further discloses "wherein the data appliance comprises a digital camera **(see camera 11 in fig. 1)**.

26. As per **claims 15 and 39,** the combination of Konishi and Bastiani discloses "The appliance of claim 14," **[See rejection to claim 14 above]** Konishi further discloses "wherein identifying a data acquisition parameter comprises changing at least one of a value associated with spatial resolution and frame rate" **(paragraph 0017 discloses changing the frame rate).**

27. As per **claims 16 and 41,** the combination of Konishi and Bastiani discloses "The appliance of claim 14," **[See rejection to claim 14 above]** Konishi further discloses "wherein the processing parameter comprises one of a bit rate, frame type, and search area for motion vectors **(see paragraph 0061)**.

28. As per **claim 17,** the combination of Konishi and Bastiani discloses "The appliance of claim 9," **[See rejection to claim 9 above]** Konishi further discloses "wherein the data appliance **(camera 11)** applies a predetermined set of parameter values responsive to a range of sustainable data transfer rates between the memory interface and an external memory medium **(see paragraph 0144)**.

29. As per **claim 40**, the combination of Bastiani and Konishi discloses "The method of claim 6," **[See rejection to claim 6 above]** Konishi further discloses "wherein identifying a data compression parameter comprises changing at least one of an indicator associated with a bit rate, a frame type, and a search area for motion vectors" **(see paragraph 0061)**.

30. As per **claim 44,** the combination of Konishi and Bastiani discloses "The appliance of claim 9," **[See rejection to claim 9 above]** Konishi further discloses "wherein the external memory medium is a removable flash memory card **(paragraph 0136 discloses "and the file system of the personal computer 13 treats the built-in flash memory 121 as an external hard disk device").**

31. As per **claim 47,** the combination of Konishi and Bastiani discloses "The system of claim 46," **[See rejection to claim 46 above]** Konishi further discloses "wherein the external memory medium is a removable flash memory card **(paragraph 0136 discloses "and the file system of the personal computer 13 treats the built-in flash memory 121 as an external hard disk device". See fig. 1).**

IV. RELEVANT ART CITED BY THE EXAMINER

32. The following prior art made of record and not relied upon is cited to establish the level of skill in the applicant's art and those arts considered reasonably pertinent to applicant's disclosure. See **MPEP 707.05(c).**

33. The following reference teaches data transfer rate.

U.S. PATENT NUMBER

US 2005/0080872

V. CLOSING COMMENTS

Conclusion

a. STATUS OF CLAIMS IN THE APPLICATION

34. The following is a summary of the treatment and status of all claims in the application as recommended by **M.P.E.P. 707.07(i)**:

a(1) CLAIMS REJECTED IN THE APPLICATION

a (1) CLAIMS REJECTED IN THE APPLICATION

35. Per the instant office action, claims 1-3, 5-31, 33, and 38-47 have received a first action on the merits and are subject of a first action non-final.

b. DIRECTION OF FUTURE CORRESPONDENCES

36. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ernest Unelus whose telephone number is (571) 272-8596. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Friday 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM.

IMPORTANT NOTE

37. If attempts to reach the above noted Examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the Examiner's supervisor, Mr. Donald Sparks, can be reached at the following telephone number: Area Code (571) 272-4201.

The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or

Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PMR system, see her//pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217- 91 97 (toll-free).

January 25, 2006

Ernest Unelus
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 2181

DONALD SPARKS
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER